

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)

U.S. Application No. 10/735,209

Attorney Docket No. Q78829

REMARKS**Formalities**

Claims 26-39 are all the claims pending in the application.

With the current Office Action, the Examiner returned a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-Form 1449 submitted with Applicants' IDS of May 25, 2005.

Claim Amendment

With this Amendment, Applicants amend Claim 26, as shown. This amendment is supported in the original specification at least at page 29, lines 21-22.

Claim Rejections

Claims 26, 28-31, 36, 37, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Bao et al., EP 0867747, U.S. Patent No. 6,266,108 ("Bao"). Claims 27 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bao, in view of Ishimaru, JP 11-142618 ("Ishimaru"). Claims 33 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bao, in view of Qiao et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,485,291 ("Qiao"). Claims 32 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bao, in view of Umemoto et. al., U.S. Patent No. 5,727,107 ("Umemoto").

Regarding the Bao reference, Applicants submit that Bao fails to disclose or suggest a transparent film with a thickness of 300µm or less. Further, the light guide plate of Bao is designed with the assumption that the light guide plate is used with a light source disposed on an end (side surface) of the light guide plate, as in Figure 1 and col. 7, lines 33-36. Therefore, the light guide plate of Bao must have at least the same thickness as that of the light source. In Bao, a light guide plate having a thickness of 3mm is exemplified (see col. 11, lines 50-52). In view of

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the above, not only does Bao fail to disclose or suggest a transparent film, as claimed, having a thickness of 300µm or less, but also, even in combination with other references, one of skill in the art at the time of the invention would not have been motivated to modify Bao to include a transparent film having a thickness of 300µm or less.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicants submit that Claim 26 is patentable over any combination of the cited references and further, that Claims 27-39 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on Claim 26. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.


Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,


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Date: January 4, 2006

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